



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND ISSUE FEE DUE

WM41/0129

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	TOTAL CLAIMS	EXAMINER AND GROUP ART UNIT	DATE MAILED
09/199,378	11/25/98	014	APPIAH, C	2682 01/29/01
First Named Applicant	ECKHARDT,	35 USC 154(b) term ext. =		

TITLE OF INVENTION APPLIANCE WITH INDICATING DEVICE

ATTY'S DOCKET NO.	CLASS-SUBCLASS	BATCH NO.	APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	FEE DUE	DATE DUE
2 463		455-526.000	B34 UTILITY	NO	\$1240.00	04/30/01

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.

THE ISSUE FEE MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.

HOW TO RESPOND TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

- A. If the status is changed, pay twice the amount of the FEE DUE shown above and notify the Patent and Trademark Office of the change in status, or
- B. If the status is the same, pay the FEE DUE shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

- A. Pay FEE DUE shown above, or
- B. File verified statement of Small Entity Status before, or with, payment of 1/2 the FEE DUE shown above.

II. Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned to the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) with your ISSUE FEE. Even if the ISSUE FEE has already been paid by charge to deposit account, Part B Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the ISSUE FEE to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.

III. All communications regarding this application must give application number and batch number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Box ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

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APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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EXAMINER

ART UNIT	PAPER
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6

DATE MAILED:

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

See attached

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/199,378

Examiner

Charles Appiah

Applicant(s)

ECKHARDT, CLAUS-CHR.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to ____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-15.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on ____ are acceptable as formal drawings.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* Certified copies not received: ____.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE FOR SUBMITTING NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS, OR A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION. This three-month period for complying with the REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL is extendable under 37 CFR 1.136(a).**

6. ☐ Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION IS REQUIRED.
7. ☒ Applicant MUST submit NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review(PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. ____
(b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed ____, which has been approved by the examiner.
(c) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. 6.


Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

8. ☐ Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Any reply to this letter should include, in the upper right hand corner, the APPLICATION NUMBER (SERIES CODE / SERIAL NUMBER). If applicant has received a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due, the ISSUE BATCH NUMBER and DATE of the NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE should also be included.

Attachment(s)

- 1 ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
3 ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
5 ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. 4.
7 ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- 2 ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
4 ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. ____
6 ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8 ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9 ☐ Other


VIVIAN CHANG
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to because Figures 1-6 should have appropriate labels or designations for a complete understanding of the invention as claimed.

Correction is required.

Specification

2. The numbering of claims is not in accordance with 37 CFR 1.126, which requires the original numbering of the claims to be preserved throughout the prosecution. When claims are canceled, the remaining claims must not be renumbered. When new claims are presented, they must be numbered consecutively beginning with the number next following the highest numbered claims previously presented (whether entered or not).

Mis-numbered claim 16 has been renumbered as claim 15 accordingly; for the above reason "claim 16" in dependent claims 2, 5, 6, 8, 11 and 12 has been replaced by "claim 15".

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 15 and 2-14 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The invention as now claimed with respect to claim 15, is not rendered obvious in view of the prior art of record. The prior art of record teach removable displays as well as well as changeable or replaceable components for portable communications devices. The prior art of record, however, fail to teach or suggest alone or in combination an appliance that include an indicating device and a decorative part as well a means forming a wall

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having an outer surface with a central region and an inner surface with the wall having an edge region which surrounds a throughgoing opening and a means for releasably connecting the decorative part with the edge region of the appliance independently from the indicating device so that that the decorative part can be removed from the depression of the edge region of the wall without the indicating device and replaced by another decorative part inserted in the depression of the edge region of the wall.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Oliwa et al. (4,856,088) discloses a radio with removable display but fail to disclose the device having an edge region which surrounds a throughgoing opening provided with a depression which serves to receive the decorative patent as pointed out by Applicant on page 5 of amendment filed on 11/25/98.

Slipy et al. (5,848,152) and Mischenko (5,982,881) discloses interchangeable faceplates for communication devices.

Lebby et al. (6,115,618) and Harris et al. (6,009,336) discloses removable displays for radiotelephones.

Maatta et al. (5,768,370) discloses a user changeable cosmetic phone interface.

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Petrella et al. (5,745,566) discloses a communication device with removable elements.

Kunert (6,031,524) discloses a handheld user portable terminal with user replaceable components.

Nishida et al. (5,842,116) discloses a radio device with a replaceable display section.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles Appiah whose telephone number is (703) 305-4772. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 7:30AM to 5:00PM.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vivian Chang, can be reached on (703) 308-6739.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700. The fax number for this Group is (703) 308-5403.

Serial Number: 09/199,376

^{CA}
Charles Appiah

January 29, 2001.


VIVIAN CHANG
PRIMARY EXAMINER